

JCR Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 25.11.2023 at 13:00 UK time

List of Committee Members

Names, initials, pronouns and * to mark non-attendance	Role
Jacob Hougie, JH , He/him	President
Daisy O'Connor, DOC , she/her	Vice President
Oliver Law, OL , he/him	Treasurer
Luka Murphy, LM , he/him	Secretary
Salma Salifu, SS , she/her	Welfare
Julia Sinkinson, JS , she/her	Welfare
Luke Tyler, LT , he/him	Welfare
Jess Morrissey, JM , She/her	Academic and Access
Ryan Simpson, RS , they/them	Green
Ruth Chapman, RC , she/her	Catering, Accommodation and Facilities
Amit Ramakrishna Prasad, ARP , he/him	Sports and Societies
Neela Nee, NN , she/her	Ents
Saira Ahmed, SA , she/her	Ethnic Minorities
Cosma Rubben, CR , she/her	International Students
Harley Chidley, HC , they/them	LGBTQ+
Maisie Johnson, MJ , she/her	Gender Equalities
Malachi Gee, MG , he/him	Disabled Students
Eleanor Lewis, EL , she/her	Class Act
Lucy Robertson, LR , she/her	Computing (non-voting)

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0. Administrative Matters

Hustings begin at 13.07

JM and **DOC** are absent with apologies. **OL, SS, JS, ARP, NN, AA, HC, MJ, MG, EL, LR** are absent.

1. Congratulations to the new president

JH expresses his thanks to the new queen of the college, **JM**, as well as the committee members who managed to attend.¹ He then further

¹ **JH**, ever humorous, initially refused to extend his thanks to the committee members who failed to attend the current meeting.

expressed his thanks to the committee in general for the work they've done this year

JH then eulogises on how much the JCR means for his identity, and therefore how sorrowful he will feel upon vacating the presidency.²

2. Criteria for Home Students to use International Storage Area

RC explains how her and **CR** worked to clean the international storage room as part of their pursuit to expand storage options. She further elucidated how all items in there must be labelled before they are binned by housekeeping before a specified date.

She points out that anyone outside of England is currently allowed to use the storage space, including home students from Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Nathalie will be sending out a form on storage which specifies the maximum storage of 4 reasonably sized boxes, or two boxes and two suitcases per student. This guidance will also include language on mitigating circumstances to ensure students from England can use the space. **RC** explains that she will need to draft a list of mitigating circumstances to provide to tutors. **RC** asks the committee for their feedback on some suggestions for mitigating circumstances.

To kickstart suggestions, **RC** suggests that not having access to a car might be one of the circumstances. Another factor might also include not having access to individuals to assist moving your belongings. She then

² Not as sad as me, **JH** ☹

proffers the idea of drawing up a geographical limit for mitigating circumstances, with distance remaining the key factor.

CR suggests that the problem is not distance but rather the number of people that help move one's belongings.

RC points out that while **RS** lives further up north, **RS** can get home quicker because they live nearer to a motorway, and therefore distance can sometimes be mitigated as a factor.

JH points out that once one is in a car, the matter is essentially settled, distance doesn't become a problem. Rather, having to take multiple trains or flying would provide more of a hassle because that involves shifting belongings several times.

RC argues that the current guidance is inconsistent and so she aimed to clarify that guidance, especially for people who have poor storage options. None of these criteria are meant to be exhaustive nor consider every individual situation.

RS offers the suggestion that there could be a tiered system of some sort. **MG** suggests a matrix that could extend up towards the North of England. Distance and access to family members could then compound to decide whether one should have access to the space. He points out that distance is crucial because it often feeds into parental work schedules.

MG and **LM** point out the poor transport links in Cornwall, and therefore that it is harder to get to rather than Wales, reinforcing the idea that distance matters rather than broad geographic categories.

JH points out that specifying Cornwall as a location would perhaps be too specific for tutors, and a more generalised list of criteria would be better.

RC concurs and reminds the committee that the guidance will be general.

RC says that she has received feedback that it is unfair that home students might be able to use the space. She points out that this will be mitigated because they will only have access during the Christmas and Easter break. This is also not going to be a long-term solution. She then asks **CR** for feedback from international students more broadly.

CR suggests that international students don't use the storage during those two holidays, mainly because most of them have long-lease rental agreements. There is also plenty of space that she thinks could be utilised, although there seem to be plenty of abandoned belongings.

RC concurs, and while **CR** might be worried about clutter, housekeeping will be coming in to clear the space of unlabelled items. Housekeeping will also be establishing a tag system with CRSIDs, names, and contact details.

CR asks that if international stuff is to be placed at the sides of the storage room, if there will be enough space at the centre of the room.

RC says there will be. A whole section of the storage belongs to one student who has now left college. She then asks **LM** for his opinion, as she knows he has provided feedback to her on the scheme in private.

LM points out that his opposition to the storage situation is less practical than moral. While the programme is likely to improve the situation, he

feels as if it were another opportunity for college to ignore the predicament of international students. For instance, he lives at Leck and it is quite a hassle to bring all of his stuff all that way as he doesn't have access to the postgraduate storage space there.

CR says that she was reminded of when she had to carry all of her belongings all the way to Newnham House, which was also an absolute hassle.

RC understands all of these points and suggests that the cart from maintenance might be utilised.

CR points out that the cart is rather unwieldy on the awful roads here and is too large for the pavement.

RC also understands this point, and reminds the Committee that none of this is a long-term solution. She promises to ask if the undergraduate population can have access to the postgraduate storage space at Leck. She then reveals that the college farm will be utilised for storage, with boxes dropped off at the front of college, as had been used for some of the furniture during the May Ball.

RC then asks whether **LM** could have avoided including certain elements in her speech at the recent committee hustings. **LM** replies that his role as the secretary involves producing an accurate record of JCR business, and therefore that would not have been possible.

Action Point: RC to draft guidance for tutors

Action Point: RC to discuss with College about means for transporting items from the International Storage area to distant sites

3. Stash

JH announces with great pride that stash will be posted by the supplier on the 28th of November and arrive on the 29th or 30th of that same month. He asks for the committees help in moving the stash.

LT suggests that the new committee should carry the boxes as their first task. **RC** registers her opposition to that suggestion as she will also be a member of the new committee.

4. Committee Work Updates

JH asks what the committee has been up to this week. **LT** discusses the various attempts to secure puppy therapy, for instance one venture which would have involved 500 pounds for one two-hour session with a guide dog. This was considered infeasibly expensive. He then attempted to cooperate with other societies during pink week in an attempt to spread the cost.

The committee agrees that there is no money generally.

MG states he does not know if he has a budget.

LT states that they also investigated doing STI testing at slacks, as well as providing stress toys.

RS lists their achievements as including green week, plant sale, recycle list, foodbank, planters at Beldam.

RC asks what **CR** has been up to. **CR** replies that she investigated the storage space with **RC**. **RC** points out that their initials are mirrored.

5. AOB

5.1 JCR Welfare Website

LT begins this agenda item by explaining that there is a problem for the next committee. The JCR welfare website is out of date and the links don't work. **RC** suggests that **LT** should have fixed the website over the summer, as she had asked him to. **LT** claims ignorance, suggesting that the former computing officer was to blame. **RC** and **JH** reply that they both could have given **LT** access. **LT** suggests the website should be taken down. The individual who raised the issues had wondered if there had been a sub-committee to write it because there is information on a wide variety of issues include abortion and STIs, written by students. **RS** turns to shows the secretary a list of proscribed drugs on the JCR website.

LT also states that there is also an intermission page on the JCR which is quite detailed. **MG** points out that college is quite poor at giving information about the process of intermitting. **LM** offers the information that the process is much more common and seemingly voluntary, for that matter.³

³ Due to **RS** and **RC** needing to leave urgently, attention turned momentarily to agenda item 5.2, but resumed below shortly after

JH turns back to the issue of the welfare website. **LT** states that he doesn't know how much of the information on the website is valid. **JH** states that much of it is worth keeping, but some of it is irrelevant. **JH** points out that the QR codes on the sheets placed around college don't work. **LT** says that those were the work of George Stokes⁴, before compounding the problem by revealing out that the links on the website doesn't work. **JH** politely suggests that one should not rely on the JCR to receive advice on chlamydia, and perhaps turn to the NHS.

LT suggests that the website might need to be taken down for now, as the relevant links do still work.

JH then reads out a list of the most visited web pages on the JCR welfare page, before pointing out that much of that traffic was probably driven by the meeting currently taking place. The main takeaway is that very few people have visited the website.

Action Point: Next Committee to investigate issues with the website

5.2 Formals in Lent

RC says that formals next term will be cut down for various reasons. Iain will be looking into ways of increasing the number of formals available for us, including on a Wednesday. **RC** points out that 3rd years will be losing 6 formals, rather than the usual three next term because of St Valentine's Day, the Marlowe Formal, and Commemoration of

⁴ Of Blessed Memory

Benefactors. **RC** asks the committee for their feedback on a Wednesday formal.

LT says that he attended one last year, which was very poorly attended, but doesn't know how the other factors will affect the introduction of this formal.

RC states that she continues working on a solution with Iain, who wants to safeguard our access to formals.

RC and **RS** leave at this point.

Meetings ends at 13.54